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ABSTRACT

The development of the State University System of Florida is studied from 1959, before any "new" schools were added to the three already established (The University of Florida, Florida State University, and Florida A & M University), until 1974, two years after the final expansion to the present nine schools in the system. Enrollments from Florida counties are analyzed in terms of distribution to each of the schools in the system. Percentages are used to determine shifts in the enrollment patterns from counties to schools. Data show a high degree of regional appeal in schools established since 1960. The patterns for the three original schools were little changed by the new schools, except in immediate nearby regions. It is noted that the newest of the recently established schools had just over two percent of its students from outside the region, and the percentage of nonregional students rose proportionate to the ages of the other schools: this suggests that appeal outside the region increased with time. With the opening of a new school, however, enrollment at a distant school does not seem to be affected. (MSE)

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NEW SCHOOLS IN A STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM: HOW DO THEY AFFECT THOSE PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED?

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New Schools in a State University System:
How do they affect those previously established?

Introduction

The State University System of Florida expanded from three schools before 1960 to nine schools in 1972. No new institutions are presently planned, however, the allocation of resources must now be made between nine institutions rather than three. With steadily increasing enrollments, growth was planned, expected, and natural. With the halt in growth, the schools of the system must compete more strongly for their share of the pool available. Philosophies of allocation have changed, and support of new schools is no longer the immediate concern, so how are resources to be allocated under a new game plan? What has the growth of the system meant to those schools with longstanding reputations and large budgets? What effect did the new schools have on the old line schools of the system? This paper will look at the last question and examine enrollments in the schools to determine what effect the opening of the new schools had on the pre-1960 universities, the University of Florida, the Florida State University, and the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

Purpose

This paper examines enrollment figures and percentages in order to determine the shift in enrollment patterns after the opening of new schools.

Method

The State University System of Florida expanded from three schools in 1959 to nine schools in 1972. The three established prior to 1959 and year of founding are: the University of Florida, 1853, Florida State University, 1857, and Florida A & M, 1887. Each of these underwent name changes over the years, and one, the University of Florida changed locations before settling finally in Gainesville in 1905. Throughout the early years of the twentieth century, each also had a prescribed student body, one male, one female, and one black.

The University of South Florida at Tampa was the first of the expansion schools, beginning operations in 1960. Next came Florida Atlantic University in 1964 at Boca Raton on the lower east coast in Palm Beach County. The University of West Florida was established at Pensacola in 1967, to end the initial round of expansion planned and authorized during the 1955 session of the state legislature.

The final round of expansion began in 1962 with a planning document describing Florida's educational needs for the Space Age. Looking to the future of the space program, a new institution was suggested for the Canaveral-Orlando-Daytona area with an emphasis of mathematics, engineering, and the sciences. The Florida Technological University was authorized by the 1963 legislature and began operations in 1968. In 1978, the name was changed to the University of Central Florida to

reflect its role as a comprehensive university rather than a scientifically oriented school, as had been previously planned.

At the request of the Board of Regents, the 1965 legislature authorized the last two universities of the system, one to be located in Miami, and one in Jacksonville. These opened in 1972 as Florida International University, and the University of North Florida.

Not all of the nine schools are comprehensive--four-year undergraduate plus graduate programs at both Masters and Doctoral levels. Of the nine, only the University of Florida, Florida State University, Florida A & M University, the University of South Florida, and the University of Central Florida offer a full four year undergraduate program. The other four schools offer only upper level undergraduate programs, supplementing the community colleges of the state. All of the nine offer beginning graduate programs, but only the University of Florida, Florida State, South Florida, and Florida Atlantic offer Doctoral work in self-contained programs on campus. Cooperative programs are available at all of the other schools through joint sponsorship with authorized programs at the above named schools with Doctorate programs, with the exception of Florida A & M.

The following table, Table A, illustrates the percentages of students drawn from the different regions of the state by the first three schools of the system. These regions were

obtained from the Florida Trend magazine and modified only slightly to reflect the university system distribution, that is, two counties were moved from one region to another to better give uniformity to the areas. The regions are titled Northwest, Northeast, Central, Southwest, and Southeast, and give regional identity and economic uniformity to the areas of the state. A brief description of the areas is as follows:

Northwest--twenty counties, 1970 population approximately 700,000, 10.35 percent of the state; major cities: Pensacola, Tallahassee; universities: Florida State, Florida A & M, West Florida.

Northeast--fifteen counties, 1970 population approximately 850,000, 12.55 percent of the state; major cities: Jacksonville, Gainesville; universities: University of Florida, University of North Florida.

Central--seven counties, 1970 population approximately 1,000,000, 14.60 percent of the state; major cities: Orlando, Daytona Beach; university: Central Florida.

Southwest--seventeen counties, 1970 population approximately 1,825,000, 26.93 percent of the state; major cities: Tampa, St. Petersburg; university: South Florida.

Southeast--eight counties, 1970 population approximately 2,400,000, 35.57 percent of the state; major cities: Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, West Palm Beach; universities: Florida International, Florida Atlantic.

TABLE A

	UF		FSU		FAMU	
	1959	1974	1959	1974	1959	1974
Northwest	5.20%	5.32%	33.41%	33.82%	36.66%	43.77%
Northeast	22.96	35.33	11.07	11.04	15.09	14.22
Central	14.27	13.78	8.86	12.76	10.61	10.01
Southwest	25.48	16.53	21.94	17.67	16.26	13.55
Southeast	32.09	29.04	24.72	24.71	21.38	18.45

There are several factors that must be taken into account before analyzing any data concerning university growth in the state of Florida during the time period of the sixties and seventies. Florida experienced huge population growth during the 1960s, increasing 37.15 percent during that time. The increase from 1940 to 1970 was a whopping 258.11 percent, or 4,893,515 people, an increase equal to the total population of most of the fifty states. However, not all of the people were of college age, and more importantly, many did not bring children into the state to attend schools. The sheer numbers entering Florida, however, were enough to keep a steady supply of students entering the university system in ever increasing numbers. This factor alone accounts for much of the growth of the schools, and helps to offset any losses that would have occurred in a stagnant growth situation. It is also true that the largest population gains occurred in the areas with the most students and also, the newest universities. Another factor that must be considered is the increase in the number of students claiming the home town

of the university as their home of residence. With majority reached at 18 years currently, and tuition a factor, more and more students claimed Gainesville and Tallahassee as their homes, certainly a factor in the increase of the University of Florida's percentage increase in the home region over the last fifteen years.

Another factor to remember is the different character of the schools in the system. Only Florida, Florida State, Florida A & M, South Florida, and Central Florida are considered residential, undergraduate schools. This is also limited by the availability of housing.

As Table A indicates, shifts in attendance from regions to the established schools did occur, but not to as great an extent as might have been expected. The University of Florida did experience a large shift in percentage composition between 1959 and 1974, particularly between the Northeast and Southwest regions. The reason for the increase in the home region, the Northeast, has been previously mentioned, and is the the increase in home of residence being Alachua county. The large drop in population from Southwest Florida can be attributed to the presence of the University of South Florida providing the basic college education much closer to home for students of that region. The slight drop in attendance from Southeast Florida is possibly attributable to the opening of two new schools, Florida Atlantic and Florida International. These being only upper level schools, the impact is not so high. The extreme growth of the region over the period also would have helped

to lessen the impact of students desiring to go closer to home to be educated.

Florida State was little impacted by the openings of new schools, the largest shift being a loss of 4.27 percent to Southwest Florida. This is again attributed to the University of South Florida. The gain in student percentage from Central Florida is difficult to explain. No easy explanation for this is offered, especially in light of the slight drop in students going to the University of Florida from that region. The home region of Florida State, Northwest Florida, only increased slightly over the fifteen years, 0.41 percent, mostly due to the availability of the University of West Florida at Pensacola in the region. Florida State lost heavily in the extreme Western counties of the panhandle to West Florida, dropping what would have been a larger increase in support from the home region.

The large increase in home region contribution for the University of Florida, and not for Florida State is significant. Part of this can be explained by the University of West Florida as indicated above, resulting in a home region loss for Florida State. Otherwise, it appears likely that students who choose F.S.U. do so for a particular reason, rather than for a general education, while those who choose the University of Florida often go for this reason, and its state-wide image, but given the availability of a university close to home, students will go there instead.

Florida A & M showed a general decline in all regions except for the home region which increased by 7.11 percent. This increase is probably because of some declarations of residency in Leon county as was also seen with the University of Florida and Florida State. Other wise, enrollment declined the most in the regions furtherest away from F.A.M.U., the Southwest and Southeast regions of the state. Given the increase in residency, the impact of the fifteen years on Florida A & M is slight.

(Gainesville is located in Alachua county, and Tallahassee in Leon county).

Findings

Other than those percentage shifts indicated above, the data obtained showed a high degree of regional appeal to these schools established since 1960. The patterns established by the three existing schools before that year were little changed by new schools except in the immediate nearby regions. As could be expected, West Florida impacted Florida State and Florida A & M, but only in the extreme western counties of the panhandle. The further one got from Pensacola, and the closer to Tallahassee, the smaller the change.

North Florida caused some enrollment in the Northeast region to shift away from the University of Florida and Florida State, due to large contributions of students from Jacksonville, and Duval county to these schools.

Central Florida impacted the University of Florida the most, being closest to that school in many of the counties of the Central region. Overall, however, Florida State's share of students from that region increased, as has been previously stated. The University of South Florida had the largest impact of Florida and Florida State, drawing off a large proportion of the students from Southwest Florida. Florida A & M also experienced a drop of several percent in that region.

Florida Atlantic and Florida International draw most of their students from the immediate area surrounding them, and do impact the other schools with statewide appeal. However, the growth of the lower east coast region has been so great that much of this loss has been taken up in increased population.

One final comment on the regional character of the new schools is necessary in orderto show the limited appeal of these schools outside their regions. The oldest of these, South Florida drew 20.56 percent of its Florida students from outside its region in 1974, next in line was Florida Atlantic with 8.42 percent from outside the region, then West Florida with 7.74 percent from outside, Central Florida with 5.10 percent, Florida International with 3.46 percent, and North Florida with 2.28 percent from outside its region.

One noticable trend in these figures is that the longer

the school has been established, the larger its outside appeal has become. Even so, the University of South Florida is still appealing mainly to its home region, with approximately eighty percent attending from the area.

In conclusion, the answer to the question of how do the new schools affect those already established appears to be that they drain off a certain number of students who go to college for the general education, not for the specific program. The enrollment is not usually affected at a distant school, for example, the Southeast Florida enrollment at Florida State did not decrease in percentage over the period from 1959 to 1974, except by .01 percent.